

Wig and Courier
GOING DOWN HILL

"That looks bad," exclaimed former White, with an unpleasant smile on the head, as he passed a neglected garden and broken-down fence, in one of his daily walks.

"Not enough," was the reply of the companion to whom the remark was addressed, "not so bad as it appears to be running down hill pretty fast. I can remember the time when everything around has little place was time and again."

"It is quite contrary now, returned the former. "Houses, out-buildings and grounds all show the want of the master's care. I can find Thompson is in the downward path."

"He always appeared to be a pretty, industrious man," rejoined the second speaker. "I have a pair of tools on my feet at this moment,

"These generally employed him for myself and family: was the work a bit much for him? that he was a good worker, but nevertheless I believe I shall step into Jack Smith's shoes tomorrow, and order a pair of boots that I need, I always make it a rule never to patronize those who appear to be running behind hand. There is generally some risk in helping those who do not help themselves."

"At the butcher's they met the neighbor who had been in the subject of their previous conversation." He certainly presented rather a shabby appearance, and in the course of most there was a regard to former things, which did not escape the observation of James White. After a few passing remarks, the other showed that his judgment was, and the butcher offered his accounts as usual, and then he withdrew quite abruptly, having been charged the but at least.

"I believe it is one of that tribe," Thompson said, "and I came to a different short account make long friends."

"Indeed! Have you heard of any trouble, neighbor White?"

"No, I have heard nothing, but a man has been taken off his own eyes, you know, and I don't want to mix myself up in any way who are evidently running down here."

"Quite right, and I will let you see him but this time."

turning. I have only delayed on account of
witnessed the poor man lay dead in his family
all winter. I suppose he must have run to
find had a little time, but I will not take care of
number one.

"The young of Thompson, as you observe, is
a tyrant, one who appeared to take an interest
in me. (Ging down into the house.) I must get
out for my milk, but I will see me a quick
run and for teacher. I did intend to give
him some for the credit, but not the whole.
I guess the money would be as safe in my own
pocket."

Here the four women separated, each with
her mind filled with the ideas of neighborly
kindness, the probability that he was going
down hill, and the best way of giving him a
push.

In another part of the village similar scenes
were passing.

"I declare," exclaimed Mrs Bennett, the despatcher, to a favorite, as she hastily withdrew her head from the window, where she was looking on the assembly, "if there is not Mrs Thompson, the abominable wife, coming up to the steps with a parcel in her hand! She wants to engage me to do better work, I suppose, but I think it would be a venture. Every one says they are running down hill, and it is a chance if I ever get my pay."

"She always has paid us promptly," was the reply.

True, but that was in the days of her prosperity. I cannot afford to rely on her now.

The entrance of Mrs Thompson prevented further conversation. She was evidently surprised at the refusal of Mrs Bennett to do any work for her, but as great pressure of business was pleaded upon her, there was nothing to be done.

ing to be used, and she soon took her leave. — Another appeal also proved to rally unsuccessful. It was strange how busy the village was with the school, and hardly noticed.

On her return, Aunt, the young shrimaker, — a self-taught the teacher of a small school in the neighborhood, where two or three children attended.

'Ah! Mrs Thompson, I am glad to see you,' was the salutation. 'I was about calling at your house. Would it be convenient to settle a little around this matter now?' —

'I am at your service,' she replied —

'Surely the term is not yet expired?' —

'Only half of it, but my present rule is to collect my money at that time. It is a plan which many teachers have adopted of late.' —

'I was not aware that there had been any change in your rules, and I have made arrangements to meet the bill at the usual time.

The countenance of the teacher showed great disappointment, and as he passed on in a different direction she muttered to herself: "Just as I had expected I shall never get a cent. Every day says they are going down hill. I must get rid of the children in some way. Perhaps I may get a pair of shoes or two for my payment for the quarter, if I manage right, but it will never do to go on in this way."

A little discomposed by her interview with the teacher, Mrs. Thompson stepped into a grocery store to purchase some trading article of family stores.

"I have a little account against you, Wm.," she conversed for Mr. Thompson to settle in the evening? "asked the store shop keeper, and he produced the card and said:

"You owe me five dollars for nothing?" was some

the surprised inquiry.

"Well, not exactly, but money is very tight just now, and I am anxious to get it all in one sum. In future, I intend keeping at my accounts. Here is your little bill, if you would like to look at it. I will call again this evening. It is but a small sum, as you see," thought Mrs. Thompson, as she thoughtfully pursued her way towards home.

"I seem strange that all these payments be met just now, while we are struggling to recover from the heavy expenses of the winter. I cannot understand it."

Her perplexity was increased upon finding her husband with two bills in his hand, and she expressed a mixture of anxiety and confusion.

"Look, Mary," he said, as she entered.—

breath the whole of the rest, and grow poorer, which was, say the poets, in fact doing on for hours—just—ever since the catastrophe had been—erased, and, as the poet says, "as if the ground had been a vacuum—how can he breathe now?" But, of course, the water at the bottom of the cloud—was not going to and in less than one minute, the whole of Paris was but one into the air, or he sank into the gassy receptacle which had been his life. The idea is a perfect specimen of the suggestion of what the poet means, and the poet's own turn with which the cause of the suggestion is turned into the idea of a deep well of others into full-forward, full and sense of their own."

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